

Applicants traverse the restriction of the claims in the manner proposed by the examiner. In particular, all of the claims are common inasmuch as they relate to (i) valproate compounds such as valproate or divalproex sodium and (ii) formulations for delivering valproate compounds that have certain dissolution profiles. Moreover, applicants point out that these groups are classified in the same class and subclass, and therefore have not been given a separate status in the art and are not distinct. Additionally, searching Group I and Group II together would not be serious burden since they have the same search classifications. Accordingly, applicants request that the restriction imposed upon the present claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicant believes that withdrawal of the restriction requirement is proper. Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any additional information is required.



23492

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
Telephone: (847) 938-3508
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

Respectfully submitted,
Y. Qui, et al.

Paul D. Yasger
Registration No. 37,477
Attorney for Applicants